(b) whether some conversion work is still to be executed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) the time by which the complete gauge conversion of the said route would be done and the same would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 444 Kms between Delhi-Ajmer and 52 kms between Ahmedabad-Mahesana sections have been converted into broad-gauge.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 423 Kms of Ajmer-Mahesana section is yet to be converted into broad gauge.

(d) By February, 1997.

[Translation]

Payment to Cotton Growers

4130. SHRI DATA MEGHE :
SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the outstanding dues of the cotton growers have not been paid till date in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for immediate payment of the dues to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As of date the entire payment of the dues to the cotton growers has been made in Maharashtra by the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) did not procure cotton under price support operation during the last three years in rest of the country. There is no outstanding dues to the CCI for the earlier period.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Conversion of Rail Line

4131. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion work for the Bangalore-Meeraj rail line is going at a very slow pace;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the conversion work is likely to be completed by the end of 1997; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Gauge Conversion work between Bangalore-Miraj has already been completed and the constructed BG line has been opened to traffic on 29.05.95.

Freedom Fighter Pension

4132. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the benefits the Government propose to provide to Freedom Fighters' children besides the ones they are presently getting;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide free medical care service to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the schemes formulated or likely to be formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide other benefits to the Children of the Freedom Fighters besides the ones they are getting.

(b) and (c) Freedom Fighter Pensioners and their dependants are already provided free medical facilities in all Central Government Hospitals and Hospitals under the Control of Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE). C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to them. As such, there appears to be no need to formulate separate scheme for their medical care and expenses to be borne by the Government.

Amendments in CRZ Notification

4133 SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by Kerala as a result of the Coastal Management Plan of his Ministry imposing severe restrictions on the construction works in the coastal area;

(b) whether the Government are considering to take necessary steps to amend the provisions of the CRZ Notification issued by Ministry on August 16, 1994 in this regard and formulate guidelines to suit Kerala's interests; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests imposed restrictions on setting up and expansion of